2026 Provincial eDSM Achievable Potential Study – February 27, 2026

Feedback Provided by:

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To promote transparency, feedback submitted will be posted on the 2026 Provincial eDSM Achievable Potential Study engagement page unless otherwise requested by the sender.

Following the focused engagement session on modelling and assumptions for behind-the-meter solar and storage and demand response measures, the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) is seeking feedback from stakeholders on draft assumptions and modelling considerations. The webinar presentation, recording, and draft measure input assumption files can be accessed from the engagement web page.

Please submit feedback to engagement@ieso.ca by **March 13, 2026**. **If you wish to provide confidential feedback**, **please submit marked "Confidential".** Otherwise, to promote transparency, feedback that is not marked "Confidential" will be posted on the engagement webpage.

Draft solar/storage and demand response inputs assumptions

Please provide comments in the "Stakeholder Feedback" column of the Demand Response and Solar Storage Input Assumptions spreadsheets.

Broader development and trends relevant to solar/storage and demand response potential modelling

Topic	Feedback
Beyond feedback shared in the Input Assumptions spreadsheets, do you have any input on broader developments and trends that may impact solar/storage and demand response potential, such as technology cost trajectories or expected impacts of recent regulatory changes concerning DER interconnection.	

General Comments/Feedback

The IESO's efforts to expand participation of distributed energy resources (DERs) in reliability programs are timely given the continued growth of solar, storage, and flexible demand technologies. One broader development that may influence demand response (DR) potential in Ontario is the adoption of tiered participation structures that reflect different response speeds, notice periods, and reliability needs.

Experience in other North American markets suggests that tiered DR frameworks - such as PJM's structure distinguishing economic, pre-emergency, and emergency response - can unlock additional demand flexibility by aligning dispatch requirements with resource capabilities.

Feedback from demand response end-user participants indicates that differentiating dispatch events based on grid needs would enable more flexible participation. For example, the IESO activated HDR ten times in summer 2025, the majority of which were economic in nature. Some customers prefer to

respond only during infrequent activations tied to emergency reliability needs, while others welcome more opportunities to activate and earn revenue.

Allowing resources to enroll in different participation tiers could broaden participation by aligning dispatch expectations with customer operational constraints. We also suggest that Cadmus consider modeling a tiered participation structure in its achievable potential assessment to evaluate whether differentiated dispatch tiers increase the overall DR potential.

As solar, storage, and other DER technologies continue to scale, a more flexible participation structure may help the IESO capture additional cost-effective demand flexibility while maintaining system reliability.